

What the Community thinks about SEAPARC Expansion/Renovation

In 2008 the Sooke & Electoral Area Parks and Recreation Commission (SEAPARC) asked for volunteers to form a committee to assess community support and explore funding options for a plan to expand and renovate the SEAPARC Leisure Complex. The Commission had developed concept drawings and devised an estimate of an expansion and renovation that would cost approximately \$2.7 million.

The proposed expansion, drafted by Alan Roy Architect, is to add a weight room/fitness area; an aerobics and fitness class area; additional and expanded dressing rooms for the arena; and program space for staff. The expansion will include a second level, which will incorporate a viewing lounge, and new rooms adjacent to the pool and beside the front entrance.

A number of members of the community from the District of Sooke and Juan de Fuca Electoral Area put their names forward as volunteers for the committee. They brought a variety of skills and experience to the committee including: physical activity and fitness professionals, recreation management, coaching, sport, program development, local government, project management, strategic planning, communications planning, research, and policy analysis. Their collective knowledge and areas of expertise include: healthy living, issues concerning children and youth, active aging, fitness, community development and planning. Several committee members have long family histories spanning several generations in the community while others are more recent arrivals providing a solid range of perspectives.

They began work in January 2009 and since then have developed and implemented a community assessment plan, conducted and analyzed a survey of community opinion on the expansion concept, and explored various funding options. The committee's findings are reflected in this report.

The expansion was proposed in response to repeated requests from area residents to have a fitness centre located within the complex. In addition, users of the arena have indicated a need for larger dressing rooms for many years. Finally, renovation was deemed necessary to repair and upgrade aging spaces and machinery in the 30+ year old facility.

Sooke and the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area are not alone in their need to update and upgrade their aging recreational facility. A recent study by the British Columbia Recreation and Parks Association (BCRPA) reports that about 70 percent of recreational infrastructure in B.C. is more than 25 years old, and they cite an urgent need for acknowledgement and action from the highest levels in government to individuals within communities.¹

Why is investing in recreation so important to a community?

Smaller communities struggle with the cost of providing recreational infrastructure. In a small but growing area like Sooke and the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area, residents have many competing demands for services. However, investment in recreation infrastructure has huge benefits to communities and can also help prevent future health, social and economic costs that can impact a community.

Here are a number of ways recreation helps support many of the goals of a strong, cohesive and sustainable community:

Reduces youth crime

"Recreation builds stronger individuals and families by reducing negative, self-destructive behaviours such as smoking, substance abuse and juvenile delinquency."ⁱⁱⁱ Such activities pose a huge cost to communities, businesses, service agencies, individuals and families. The BCRPA also states that recreation and organized sports help contribute to youth crime reduction and there are many examples of sport and recreation programs that have successfully reduced crime in communities.

Physical activity and healthier communities

Participation in physical activity and recreation helps prevent many types of cancers, and can reduce the risk of heart disease and type 2 diabetes, and falls and chronic conditions in older adults. “Activity can also foster social opportunities and contribute to mental health by reducing stress, combating depression and building emotional well-being.” In particular, physical activity helps reduce boredom and depression in both youth and the elderly – factors associated with irresponsible behaviour among youth, and overall wellness and independence among seniors.ⁱⁱⁱ

Contributes to community spirit

“Recreation engages people and builds social cohesion, generating healthy, inclusive communities. People feel an emotional connection to the places that bring them enjoyment, making our recreation nodes truly a heart within our communities.” Facilities provide places for people to meet and come together, and recreation provides ways to participate and build mutual respect, inclusion and understanding.^{iv}

Environmental sustainability

“Recreation goes hand in hand with environmental protection. Active people seek opportunities to incorporate exercise and recreation into their daily lives, often choosing to walk and cycle rather than drive.” Aging infrastructure and equipment is not as energy efficient as upgraded facilities and machinery, contributing to both higher energy consumption and costs.^v

Economic stimulus

“Investment in recreation infrastructure offsets reactive investments in health and social justice infrastructure. Parks, trails and recreation facilities increase property values and tax revenue. Recreation facilities generate construction and operations job opportunities and support tourism, providing venues for everything from high-performance sporting events to recreational attractions.”^{vi} One-stop recreational facilities that provide a range of activities encourage people to remain in the community and spend their dollars locally.

The Committee’s approach – what we did

The SEAPARC Expansion/Renovation Committee began with nine volunteer members, but ended up with a core working group consisting of seven volunteers, one District of Sooke Councillor, and three SEAPARC staff members. They began by reviewing and researching the expansion/renovation plan, the impacts of recreational infrastructure on communities, and exploring options for private and public funding, and ways to assess community opinion.

Members participated in two sub-committees: one exploring funding and grant options, and the other to develop and implement a community assessment plan.

Community assessment

The Committee determined the most cost effective way of assessing community support would be through a direct-mail survey to residents of Sooke and the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area. Survey design and analysis, communications planning, research and writing were all contributed by members of the committee. SEAPARC staff contributed time in retrieving surveys, taking minutes at meetings, and compiling survey comments. The final cost to SEAPARC for survey printing, mailout and drop boxes was \$1,202.00 (less than the \$1,500.00 budget requested by the Committee from the Commission).

The Committee also developed a communications plan and promoted the survey through public displays and news releases and did not require any paid advertising. SEAPARC promoted the survey through its spring program guide, on the roadside sign, through a display in the front lobby, and on its website. Committee members spent time staffing a display on the expansion/renovation project at several public information sessions to help promote the survey, provide information on the project, and encourage community input. These included: a booth at the day-long Rotary Auction May 2; a display at the District

of Sooke open house May 6; and a display at Western Foods May 23. A series of news releases to announce the Committee and the survey, and to remind the community of the survey deadline were sent to the Sooke News Mirror and received media coverage.

Funding options

The Committee explored and researched a range of public and private grant and funding options. Upon the announcement of the Federal Budget in February 2009, new grant opportunities for infrastructure renewal became available. The Committee reviewed the options for federal and provincial government grant funding and recommended and reviewed two grant applications that have been submitted by SEAPARC through the Building Canada Fund and the Recreational Infrastructure Canada program.

The Committee also reviewed funding criteria from a variety of private foundations for grant funding opportunities that could be undertaken if the expansion/renovation project proceeds.

Other comments

In addition to the responses to the survey, the project attracted comment in the form of media coverage, letters to the editor, and online blogs. Comments included:

“We’re lucky in Sooke to have such a nice facility for recreation as the SEAPARC (Sooke and Electoral Area Parks And Recreation Commission) arena and pool. The facility, located on Philips road (sic) just off Sooke Road is modern, clean, and a great value. Since moving to Sooke almost 4 years ago, I’ve enjoyed the pool and arena, but must admit I’d use the facility more if it had a fitness facility. ... If the project goes ahead, there would be a corresponding increase in property taxes in the District of Sooke and the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area, which pay for SEAPARC. What does borrowing \$1 million look like on your taxes? About \$20 per year for an average home in Sooke and about \$14 for an average home in JDF. Not much, really for such an important and exciting project. ... By adding these new options at the SEAPARC recreation complex, we would also be adding the user base of the facility. ... Plus, I’d love the ability to go for a hard workout and then take a dip in the pool or hot tub!”

From a local real estate professional, published at: <http://642blog.ca/2009/05/12/sookes-seaparc-arena-and-pool-expansionrenovation/>

“It is not the time to expend 2.7 million dollars on a project that only a small percentage of taxpayers will use. There are a great many other more pressing needs that should be addressed. In addition the estimated cost to build this facility when analyzed carefully essentially point out that, we, the taxpayers will pay for the addition entirely either directly in tax increases or indirectly through grants and subsidies. ... The questionnaire leaves out the annual cost of operating this addition. ... There is also the concern that there are already 4 fitness services already operating in Sooke. ... In order for the community provide (sic) an educated response, some alternatives to this large capital outlay should be presented for consideration. These might include: The use of the school gymnasias on weekends, evenings and during the long summer break. Money spent on this alternative would also assist in helping provide fitness equipment to the school. ... A system of grants could be provided to the commercial fitness centres to permit a reduction in user costs and permit the acquisition of improved equipment. I believe the community should also be informed about what other more pressing options could be looked into (such as) reducing the current civic debt that is already producing an onerous tax structure, funding projects that deal with health care, childrens care, seniors care, battered women’s care.”

E-mail received by SEAPARC on May 11, 2009.

Survey Methodology and Results

Methods

A direct mail survey of six key questions was developed and distributed by bulk mail to all households in the District of Sooke and Juan de Fuca Electoral Area, with the exception of those residents who indicate “no flyer” delivery. Copies for those who did not receive in the mail were made available at the SEAPARC front desk and on the SEAPARC website. Respondents were asked to return the completed surveys through drop boxes located at SEAPARC reception, Bill’s Store in East Sooke, Kemp Lake Store in Otter Point, and the Port Renfrew Community Centre. They were also provided with a mailing address and email address to return the surveys for those who would be unable to reach a drop box location.

Five thousand copies of the survey were made. Surveys were distributed during the first week of May and the deadline to return the survey was June 19. The Committee also distributed copies of the survey through appearances at three public functions during the month of May – the Rotary Auction, District of Sooke open house, and at Western Foods. The number of surveys distributed by community were as follows:

Port Renfrew 100
Otter Point, Shirley & Jordan River 773
Sooke 3,414
East Sooke 580

Findings and conclusions

Of the total number of 5,000 surveys distributed, 469 or 9.3 percent were returned. Not all respondents indicated their area of residence, however from those who did indicate area of residence, return rates and numbers from each area as follows: East Sooke: 54 (9.8%); Sooke: 333 (9.7%); Otter Point/Shirley/Jordan River: 54 (6.1%); Port Renfrew: 14 (14%). Detailed findings of the survey are included in Appendix A.

A strong majority supports expansion – except those who responded from East Sooke and Port Renfrew
Overall, 68.3 percent of respondents (a little more than two-thirds) indicated strong support for the project, while 27.3 percent (a little more than one-quarter) indicated no support, or very little support. The majority of respondents in East Sooke (57.4 percent) and Port Renfrew (78.6 percent) do not support expansion. More than half (53.8 percent) of respondents in Otter Point, Shirley and Jordan River area gave strong support for the project. More than three-quarters of respondents from Sooke (78.5 percent) indicated strong support.

This represents a high level of support for the SEAPARC expansion/renovation project. If the Commission decides to proceed with the expansion/renovation, they can expect positive public support in most areas. Given the distance of Port Renfrew and East Sooke from the complex, and the response from these communities, residents in these areas are not expected to support a tax increase to fund expansion.

Of particular note are the comments that were raised by newer residents who have moved to the area from other locations that have had access to recreation centres that included a weight room and fitness area. These respondents indicated their surprise that SEAPARC did not include a fitness area. Many of these newer residents live in very close proximity to the complex and considered its location as part of the draw to the community. They are growing families, young professionals and older adults and all want to have access to a one-stop fitness, recreation and social location.

Response also demonstrates a very high awareness of the issue, and a desire by residents to provide input and see the results of their suggestions.

For those who responded with no to low levels of support, their comments indicated that the primary reason for not supporting expansion was that they were not users of the facility and they felt they would

derive no benefit from an expansion that they would be expected to help pay for. Other reasons provided were general opposition to tax increases, and a feeling that the community had other priorities that should be dealt with first.

Examples of comments included:

- I am enthusiastic about the expansion, provided membership fees are kept affordable.
- Don't need it – exercise facilities already exist in Sooke.
- Don't care – it's one hour and 15 minutes from my home.
- Sooke really needs another gym, as a new resident to Sooke we were very surprised to see a rec. centre without a gym.
- There are more pressing needs than expanded recreational needs.
- Expansion is very much needed as Sooke continues to grow.

Phase in the expansion or no?

Respondents were asked if they support a phased expansion. Of those who responded to this question, 178 said yes, and 218 said no.

Of note is that overall support for the project was not an indicator of whether or not a respondent supported a phased expansion. Those who indicated no support at all for the project (a 1 level of support) also did not support a phased expansion. However, many people who indicated a very high level of support also did not support a phased expansion, indicating they wanted the project to move forward as quickly as possible.

Comments received include:

- Complete all immediately – together!
- Go for all. Fast track.
- Just get it done – we need it and make sure it's big enough for our growing community.
- I do not support any expansion to the facility

In response to a question asking respondents to rank what phase they would prefer to see completed first – the arena dressing rooms, weight room space, aerobic space or program staff space – the weight room space received the most responses providing the highest ranking. This was followed by the aerobics space, arena dressing rooms and program staff space, in order of priority.

Other uses of expanded space

Respondents were also asked if they wished to see other uses of the expanded space. This question drew a very broad range of suggestions – from onsite child care to a seniors centre. Other examples included: an outdoor running track, martial arts space, space for racquet sports, waterslide for the pool, more private dressing rooms in the pool, arts centre, preschool, and youth area/centre. There were numerous suggestions in regards to food – from healthier choices and a bigger concession, to a bistro-style café and juice bar.

One respondent took the time to detail a variety of options for additional use of the space that would also help generate revenue. These suggestions included having space available for retail use:

“Design an attached building on the perimeter of the existing structure that will allow for the construction and operation of several free enterprise businesses, including space for your proposed new business/work out facility. ... Build enough space that once leased, it will pay for all the construction improvements, maintenance and ongoing management. ... Ideal tenants can be found and could range from retail sporting goods to health services. ... The community would enter a win win situation, with no tax burden to the public; more business opportunities created with out taking away from existing business community – this can be achieved by offering the space in a timely manner that would allow the move of existing businesses.”

A detailed list of all comments received are included in Appendix C.

A number of residents used copies of the survey to indicate support for a seniors centre. While they did not respond to the survey, 37 copies were returned stating the respondents would like to see a publicly-supported seniors centre. Many others who responded to the survey also indicated support for a seniors centre located within the complex.

Most support a tax increase if necessary to help fund the project

Respondents were advised that a tax increase may be necessary to help fund the project, and asked to indicate yes or no in support of a tax increase. They were also provided with options to indicate how much of an increase to their annual property tax bill they would be prepared to pay. Not surprisingly, all of the respondents who did not support the project also did not support a tax increase. However, a vast majority of those who indicated their support for the project are prepared to pay a tax increase.

Of all (443) the respondents to this question 301 (67.9 percent) indicated they would pay a tax increase and 141 said they would not support a tax increase. Of those who indicated they support a tax increase, 137 are prepared to pay \$1-\$20; 117 would pay \$21-\$40; and 40 said they would pay more than \$40 in additional annual taxes to fund the expansion.

These results are particularly significant given the timing of the survey distribution. Commission members advised caution in distributing the survey at the same time as tax notices were being distributed to residents. Commission members advised that having a question about tax increases and expenditure arrive at the same time as actual tax notices could skew the results toward a more negative response than what might otherwise be received. As well, the surveys arrived in the mail during a general provincial election when many issues were competing for residents' attention, and many brochures and flyers were arriving in mailboxes.

With these considerations, the response to the question on support for a tax increase to fund the expansion was exceptionally positive. It can also be concluded that many residents (in particular those who are new to the community and have paid much higher property taxes elsewhere) believe there is room for an increase in property taxes to support additional recreation infrastructure and services.

Examples of comments include:

- I can not afford to maintain Sooke in the lifestyle it wants to have.
- Less cost, less tax increase at this time.
- These services should be funded through fee for service.
- There are more important things to be done first.
- No tax but I will donate some money.
- Tax increase is fine. \$40+ is acceptable for nice facilities and community health.

Who responded?

The last question asked respondents for some basic demographic information, including age, gender, area of residence, and whether or not they were users of the facility. Many respondents chose not to fill in all of this information, however most did indicate their area of residence. Because of the nature of responses it cannot be determined with any certainty the levels of support based on age, gender or whether or not the respondent is an existing SEAPARC user.

The responses indicate that a broad cross section of the community responded, from all age groups and areas, and included those who already use the facility, and those who do not.

Funding Options

The Commission can approach the expansion/renovation in two different ways: all at once, which would require a tax levy and referendum, or through phases over several years, which would spread the funding out over time so that the work can be completed within the CRD's capital budget allocation. There is a risk in a phased approach in that overall costs may be higher, or that not all phases of the

expansion would be able to be completed. Federal and provincial infrastructure grant funding is available this year, and grant funding from various levels of government may continue to be available in the coming years.

The Committee researched several grant funding options and supported applications that have been submitted for funding from two infrastructure funds: the Building Canada Fund (total grant application of \$800,000 with \$400,000 requested and \$400,000 from capital budget) and Recreation Infrastructure Canada (total grant application of \$750,000 with \$250,000 request and 2/3 coming from the capital budget). Details on these grant applications are outlined in Appendix B.

There are a number of private foundations that may be able to support the project with different levels of funding. Examples of some of the more prominent funding agencies are the Victoria Foundation and the Royal Bank of Canada. If the Commission is interested in exploring the fundraising options further, the agencies would need to be contacted by either the CRD's internal development officer, a staff member of SEAPARC, or a contracted fundraising professional. Alternatively, the Commission could strike a volunteer committee with the appropriate skill and experience mix to focus on fundraising.

A fundraising campaign from local businesses and individuals could also be undertaken. These have proven very successful in past efforts to assist with costs of the pool and community theatre. Donors to the theatre project, for example, purchased a "seat" for a fixed cost. A similar fundraising campaign, with various levels of sponsorship could be devised for this project. Committee members reported that many individuals and several local businesses came forward expressing interest in contributing financially to the project.

Conclusions/recommendations

There is strong support for an expansion and renovation to the SEAPARC Leisure Complex. While it is understood that it would not be feasible to begin the project in 2009, the Committee recommends that the Commission, the District of Sooke and the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area acknowledge the response for this project received in the various areas. Due to the heightened awareness of the proposed expansion/renovation project, there is likely public expectation for action.

There is particularly strong support within the District of Sooke, and therefore District Council may expect continued calls for action from the community. To make this feasible, the District could look for synergies in other priorities (such as parks and trails plans and other infrastructure projects) to leverage existing budgets - future grant applications and project budgets could address the recreation infrastructure expansion of SEAPARC in addition to other areas of the community. As well, support from the District of Sooke would be a strong influence at the Capital Regional District table when SEAPARC's capital budget is discussed.

With the availability of recreation infrastructure grant funding to provide economic stimulation to communities across Canada, residents of the area will benefit significantly from the employment, recreational, and health outcomes of undertaking expansion.

We thank you for the opportunity to participate in this project.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Armour (chair)
Doni Eve (vice-chair)
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End notes

ⁱ British Columbia Recreation and Parks Association: [A Time for Renewal: Assessing the State of Recreation Facilities in British Columbia](http://www.bcrpa.bc.ca/recreation_parks/facilities/sports_recreation/a_time_for_renewal.htm). May 2009. Page 2.
http://www.bcrpa.bc.ca/recreation_parks/facilities/sports_recreation/a_time_for_renewal.htm.

ⁱⁱ Ibid. p. 21.

ⁱⁱⁱ Ibid. p. 17-18.

^{iv} Ibid. p. 22.

^v Ibid. p. 23.

^{vi} Ibid. p. 24.

Appendix A - Survey Results

Question 1 - On a scale of 1 – 10, please rate your level of support for the proposed expansion/renovation of the SEAPARC Leisure complex. On this scale, 1 represents no support at all, and 10 represents very high support. Results from those who completed this section are below:

Overall support (percentage)*	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total by location
	No to little Support (27.8)				Neutral (4.3)		Strong Support (68.3)				
East Sooke	31				2		2	3	8	8	54
Port Renfrew	11				1			1	1		14
Otter Pnt/Shirley/J. River	16	3	2	1	1	1	1	4	4	19	52
Sooke	39	9	3		10	5	9	20	29	185	309
Total	97	12	5	1	14	6	12	28	42	212	429

Support by location* - represents percentage of support from results tallied from each location

	No to little support	Neutral	Strong support
East Sooke	57.4%	3.7%	38.8%
Port Renfrew	78.6%	7.1%	14.2%
Otter Point/Shirley/Jordan River	42.3%	3.8%	53.8%
Sooke	18.4%	4.8%	78.5%

*Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding

Question 2 - Do you support a phased expansion? Total numbers of those who indicated yes, and no, and by location, are provided below**:

Support for phased approach	yes	no	Total by location
East Sooke	9	36	45
Port Renfrew	1	12	13
Otter Pnt/Shirley/J. River	17	28	45
Sooke	151	142	293
Total	178	218	396

**responses that did not indicate their location were not recorded in this summary. Those responses do not have a significant effect on the distribution of total yes or no responses.

Question 3 - What phase would you prefer to see completed first? Respondents were provided with four components of the planned expansion, and asked to check the phase they would like to see completed first, or to rank in order of priority. Results of rankings are provided below.

Ranking	Arena dressing rooms	Weight Room	Aerobics Space	Program staff space
First	79	138	88	22
Second	20	49	68	17
Third	55	20	26	31
Fourth	24	15	9	82

Question 4. Are there other uses of expanded space that you would like to see? Respondents provided many suggestions. These are listed in detail in Appendix C.

Question 5 - To fund the proposed expansion, SEAPARC will be seeking grant funding to cover 2/3 of the costs. The final 1/3 in costs may require a tax increase. Please indicate your support for a tax increase. Respondents were asked to indicate Yes or No in response to whether or not they are prepared to pay a tax increase to fund the proposed expansion. For those who indicated they are prepared to pay a tax increase, respondents were asked to indicate how much more in annual property taxes they would be prepared to pay to fund the expansion: \$1-\$20; 21-\$40; or more than \$40.

Support for tax increase (percentage)	Yes	1-20	21-40	more than 40	No	Total by location
East Sooke	20	12	8		32	52
Port Renfrew	1		1		13	14
Otter Pnt/Shirley/J. River	31	13	9	3	23	54
Sooke	249	112	99	37	73	323
Total	301	137	117	40	141	443

Support for tax increase* - proportion of support from each location

	Supports tax increase	Does not support tax increase
East Sooke	38.4%	61.5%
Port Renfrew	7.1%	92.9%
Otter Point/Shirley/Jordan River	57.4%	42.6%
Sooke	77.1%	22.3%

**Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding*

Question 6 - Please tell us about yourself and your affiliation with and/or interest in SEAPARC. Respondents were asked to provide basic, non-identifying demographic information that indicated their area of residence, whether they were a user of the facility, gender and age.

Many respondents chose not to complete this section. Most indicated their area of residence, but due to inconsistencies in the responses, this section has not been analyzed in any detail. Simple results based on how many responses received in response to each topic are provided below. These indicate that a broad cross section of the community responded to the survey:

- Use SEAPARC through an association or school: 30
- Use SEAPARC through self or family: 186
- Male: 142
- Female: 223
- Age less than 19: 12
- Age 19-64: 261
- Age 65+: 90

Appendix B – Summary of grant applications submitted

Recreational Infrastructure Canada Program

Amount Requested: \$250,000

Total Project Costs: \$750,000

The municipality of Sooke and the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area are aware of the imminent need for replacement of the aging infrastructure and the avoidance of unscheduled maintenance shutdowns. The two service areas have provided direction to explore funding opportunities as they arise to help offset renewal costs, aid in completing the renewal in as short a time frame as possible, and to ensure that the efficiency of the systems are as high as possible in keeping with other initiatives to lower the environmental footprint.

Outline of Proposed Project

All of the mechanical systems are inefficient when compared solely with comparative equipment manufactured at this time. Further to this, these systems are not designed to operate together and significant opportunities exist to utilize waste heat from the refrigeration cycle and integrate the various components to reduce energy consumption. The replacement of the HVAC systems and the dehumidifier will also result in improved air quality for facility users. Specifically, the installation of a dessicant system will allow for a fresh air intake and exhaust with the dampers being functioned on CO₂ levels. A CO₂ level from ice maintenance equipment has been a major concern for ice program participants over recent years and the development of asthma symptoms.

The arena bleachers and associated railings will also be altered to address accessibility and safety issues. The original bleachers are not conducive to small children, the elderly, or spectators with mobility issues. A snow melt pit was installed after road realignment along one side of the facility where snow was previously dumped over a bank. Due to funding restraints, no method to introduce heat to melt the snow was installed. As a result, ice maintenance staff are required to use large volumes of heated water from the boiler system to help melt the ice shavings. This represents a significant amount of “wasted” municipal water, energy and staff time. The use of waste heat from the refrigeration cycle and a closed loop heat exchange system will result in significant savings and reduced energy consumption.

Finally, there will be potential savings from the integration and replacement of the aging equipment which will reduce operating costs and allow for an increase in contributions to the Capital and Equipment Replacement Reserves which is currently underfunded and will aid in further recreation infrastructure renewal.

BC - Canada Infrastructure Stimulus Fund

Amount Requested: \$400,000

Total Project Cost: \$1,200,000

SEAPARC Leisure Complex has conceptual drawings for additional space such as: arena dressing rooms, fitness centre, aerobic space and a viewing lounge/meeting area. This application focuses on phase one of the plan to expand the Leisure Complex and will focus on the arena. The arena facility was constructed in 1975 and nearly all of the mechanical systems are in need of replacement and many aspects of the facility lacking in comparison with the standard for recreational facilities of today.

The primary concern is to renew and/or upgrade mechanical and refrigeration equipment such as the compressors and motors. This equipment is from the original construction and is well past its estimated useful life.

The arena dressing rooms will also be addressed as the current spaces are in poor condition. New additional space will be added for coaches and league officials as well as upgrading the current dressing rooms to include additional rooms for women participating in hockey and skating. Plumbing fixtures will be updated to include low flow models to conserve on energy use.

**APPENDIX C - Comments received in response to
Survey of Community Opinion on SEAPARC Expansion/Renovation 2009**

Comments regarding support for the expansion:

- I use the Sooke pool 2 or 3 times a week, but most other people I know who live in East Sooke prefer to use the Juan de Fuca pool in Langford. They do their shopping in Langford and combine the two activities. I'm sure if Sooke had better shopping facilities more people from the outlying districts would use the Rec. Center, but with gas prices as they are people are tending to do as much in one trip to town as possible. Also, the future of East Sooke still has to be decided. I hope we join Sooke, but if that is not the case then I really don't see why we should be asked to fork out more taxes for the Sooke pool when we would be expected to pay taxes for the Juan de Fuca center as well. I know a lot of my friends and neighbours feel the same way. So perhaps you should postpone making any decisions for East Sooke until our fate is decided.
- I use the aerobics room weekly to attend classes. It's getting very crowded in there.
- Don't use it (several comments).
- Supporting the recreation availability for our community for residents not to commute to other areas.
- Depends on the feasibility, convenience of overall design.
- I believe that this proposal alone would be enough of an undertaking for this community.
- No support – never have used! I do not ever go to SEAPARC and do not want to pay taxes at all!
- We do not use the facility.
- It's just not needed by the majority of us.
- Excellent idea – much needed.
- Need more information on the actual space benefits. Please provide what programs/equipment will be provided with weight room and aerobic space.
- This is highly needed in Sooke!
- Space needs to be larger.
- Our community is growing. We need more fitness facility space for adults & children.
- No support – I am opposed to any expansion. I do not support any expansion regardless of type of financing.
- Would be good for Sooke residents generally but we live 17 km away and use centre less. Also choices limited and not enough for seniors (from Otter Point).
- People wanting this so private.
- No expansion. You can double this opinion!
- Excellent facility – vital for community health!
- Get the job done & over with! – at one go.
- Fitness areas will attract people = revenue.
- Do it all at once – less disturbance over a shorter time.
- I use the pool a lot. Would also use weight room.
- Do not want an expanded facility, extra facilities require taxes (mine) to take care of them.
- Let's keep building the "community feel" especially family activities and youth.
- Construction costs have come down – build it all!!!

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- Private companies provide aerobic/weight room space. Arena dressing rooms serve a small minority.
 - I am enthusiastic about the expansion, provided membership fees are kept affordable (especially considering the tax increase).
 - Any SEAPARC facilities are app. A 2 ½ hour round trip from Port Renfrew. We should not have to pay or be included in any vote.
 - Port Renfrew needs to support its own facilities.
 - Low use now, will it improve?
 - (Supportive) Even though I and my family would not benefit except for more aquatic programs.
 - It is something I have wanted for a long time.
 - I would prefer the whole project to be done at one time + I'm willing to pay an increase in taxes to have that done.
 - Important to have facilities for rehab after surgery. I had to go to JdF for rehab after open heart surgery.
 - Sooke is growing, the rec center should grow with it.
 - Aerobic space is limited & we are often rushed out so set up of child care can occur.
 - It is adequate as is.
 - Don't need it – exercise facilities already exist in Sooke.
 - Expansion creates higher cost in operating facility.
 - It is good as is.
 - Absolutely not, what are you thinking? These facilities are available in the village.
 - Don't care; it's 1 hr + 15 min from my home (from Port Renfrew).
 - Port Renfrew should not be included.
 - This facility is useless to Port Renfrew given the disrepair of the West Coast Road. We are paying for something we do not use. Time to stop!
 - No project at all!!
 - The pool has been a valuable resource for me in my journey of rehabilitation even though it is 70 km away from "Rainfrew".
 - The project should be done at the same time.
 - It would greatly benefit our community.
 - This type of facility is very much needed for Sooke.
 - Long overdue.
 - We are seniors and to date have not been able to convince anyone to heat the pool. It is too cold for use, as it is for other seniors, so I resent being asked to pay taxes (more) for an area I don't use. Why don't you talk with someone who runs the Esquimalt pool!
 - Young people need facilities/seniors need fitness rooms – what is there to keep us Sooke seniors fit with weight (?) exercises.
 - Every other community has these facilities!
 - This is a major part of Sooke life. It should be fully upgraded.
 - Promote to use gym in the EMCS.
 - The present facility covers my needs.

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- Sooke really needs different activities such as pilates, etc.
 - Present rooms are too small for aerobics & weights. Make sure rooms can accommodate at least 30 participants.
 - There are 3 private businesses in Sooke offering aerobic and weight room training. Why do you want to run opposition to them? Also the school has a weight room.
 - Just build it now and we will come! Building cost could increase dramatically down the road!
 - I have been hoping for this. I work in town. This would make more choices to go work out.
 - Watch grandchildren play sports there. Thinking about doing different type of exercise myself.
 - Wonderful.
 - Don't use the facility
 - Sooke really needs another gym, as a new resident to Sooke we were very surprised to see a rec centre w/o gym.
 - Sooke already has two fitness centers, we don't need more.
 - Revenue generating space first. Anything that promotes/supports a healthy lifestyle & recreational centre for all ages.
 - Focus on the aerobics first to serve the widest public audience.
 - If there is a change in the cleanliness of the change rooms for the pool.
 - Good idea.
 - If people want these why don't they join a gym and pay their own fees. Why should tax payers pay for these expansions?
 - As long as ice costs don't go any higher! Just would like heaters in the arena.
 - We used to enjoy a quick swim but since the (pool) become crowded with a mob of nuts doing "laps" and the admission people's dogs to the baths, we no longer patronize them.
 - Everything at once!!
 - Let's get started!
 - This project is needed in a young growing community.
 - Let's pay for this now (Let people know final cost. Would like to project to start now, let people know the costs up front).
 - Can't use it so we don't need it.
 - It would be "10" if it cost less!
 - I have a 14 month old so the more programs the better.
 - Not that I don't believe program staff space is important but I work in an office and I know how much can get done in a small space too.
 - Don't do it at this point in time.
 - I would like to see an improvement on Sooke Road, terrible condition.
 - Our community is expanding – so must our rec. facility.
 - I spoke against a viewing room when at one of the first meetings of SEAPARC about the new pool, the vote on it just (?) PASSED.
 - What is wrong with private ones? Who is going to pay to run this?

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- Not needed, unwanted expense.
 - Space is at a premium.
 - Great staff.
 - The (rec. centre) is an integral part of our community.
 - We have fitness centre & weight rooms available in Sooke now!
 - I feel it should be finished or completed all at once, less disruption.
 - Infrastructure to town core first.
 - Sooke needs expansion.
 - It's a go.
 - A definite need.
 - We need more room!
 - There are more pressing needs than expanded recreational needs.
 - Should wait until Sooke has more development to support this project.
 - Over due.
 - All phases! Good luck!
 - Keep the connection with baseball, tennis courts & playing fields.
 - Very much needed.
 - I don't believe that it is needed that bad.
 - Crucial to support a growing community.
 - Aerobic space is low cost but can become high revenue.
 - Desperately needed!
 - Would prefer whole project to be completed ASAP.
 - Great hot tub and pool.
 - Need a weight room.
 - Much needed.
 - I still think the aerobic room needs to be bigger. In activities like jazzercise you need lots of room to move at best you'll get 3 – 4 people across the new room.
 - We do not NEED more fitness areas.
 - Will we need area parking spaces?
 - This is a great place!
 - I give lots of support.
 - Well worth it for the community.
 - We need to expand.
 - Recreation facilities increase population health & decrease health care costs.
 - Sooke is completely without a decent weight room space.
 - Sooke is expanding. SEAPARC should as well.
 - Complete all immediately – together!!
 - We need this bad!!!
 - Dressing (rooms) first for sure!!!!

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- We really need this!
 - Expansion is very much needed as Sooke continues to grow.
 - Much rather see the expansion completed all at once, it would save money and the project would be done with no further interruptions.
 - Do it all at once.
 - Need expanded facilities to keep our residents in Sooke.
 - I feel it would be a great move ahead.
 - SEAPARC is an excellent and well run facility essential to the community.
 - Go for all. Fast track.
 - The SEAPARC complex is an essential venue in our community. Expansion will enhance its effectiveness.
 - Take care of the majority and public 1st.
 - Dire need of expansion.
 - Anything to improve the pool.
 - Enough is enough!! What we have is good enough!!
 - There are enough exercise places in Sooke.
 - I appreciate that staff would like more space.
 - Why pump iron in competition with Odyssey? Money could be better used for future needs. 30 pers. In aerobics room? 20 pers. Is a more realistic figure!
 - Just get it done – we need it and make sure it's big enough for our growing community.
 - Just fix the arena.
 - We NEED this!
 - Lowest priority is viewing lounge – no recreational value.
 - You need to do this.
 - I believe we are the only rec centre without a fitness centre in the CRD.
 - I am really looking forward for it to happen!
 - The more activities I can find for my kids the better.
 - Pool (expansion).
 - With Sooke's proposed growth, an expansion will be needed.
 - Currently, no weight room at all so one would be great first.
 - Toddler pool is often too crowded. A larger one would benefit many of the young families currently living here and for future families.
 - Desperately needed.
 - Youth in particular need more sources of interest.
 - All ages need the facilities – seniors need to workout.
 - Viewing (lounge) room.
 - Well need for community.
 - I don't support phased construction.
 - I do NOT support any expansion to the facility. I would not support any increase to fund any aspect of this facility.

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- Good support but not enough.
 - Arena needs more dressing rooms.
 - Pool expansion.
 - Because you're not expanding anything for the kids (lower support).
 - Program staff already have a lot of room!
 - We need more pool space.
 - I LOVE the pool.
 - The popularity of SEAPARC is growing.
 - It is not convenient to get to from East Sooke and I and our family do not use the facility.
 - Not applicable as I have no interest in SEAPARC or expansions. There is no benefit to Port Renfrew residents.
 - Using taxpayers' money to go into competition with existing similar commercial enterprises is irresponsible.
 - Expansion is a great idea – what about including more tables to sit and eat at both indoor and outdoor. Such as creating a greenspace. Also for the future – what about a running track?
 - Ok in general with more rec space, but concerned about SEAPARC competing more with private business.
 - Concerned about dressing rooms and weight room addition that will compete with private business.
 - Difficulty making ends meet at SEAPARC already.
 - Our community is growing, and an expanded rec centre is necessary.
 - Not the right economic climate to expand. Sooke has priorities that are more in line with the entire community & city core.
 - Obviously shortsighted design when originally built!
 - There are fitness/weight training businesses in Sooke – encourage use of these.
 - Wrong project in these times – can't burden with additional taxes. Tax increases consistently in line with cost of living.
 - Sooke also has more than adequate fitness facilities w/o requiring a NGO facility needing tax payers support.
 - This will be a subsidized drain on taxpayers and never ending (fitness centre).
 - The only other service I would like to see in Sooke is a public boat launch.
 - Bad timing during this economic downturn – good idea otherwise. We far west of Sooke have little or no change to use facilities but are sure that the high taxes for them (e.g. pool!!!) + no user fee stimulus for us as with other facilities (no percs for tax payers!!).
 - Do not get a chance (to use). Too busy working to pay existing taxes (*pool hurts big time)
 - There is 3 or 4 private businesses that will be affected.
 - This is very much needed.
 - Larger aerobic classes should be a definite priority.
 - We need this in our community. Something for everyone (ex. Family's).
 - We need to have a weight room for the men, ladies (teens) in the area. We might see more fitness classes.
 - The community has grown and so should its amenities.
 - There's a gym in town. Tax payers don't support golfers either.
 - I do not wish an expansion. Why not enjoy the outdoor environment instead.
 - Opposed to any expansion. No expansion or renovation.

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- Must be consultation with business community to address conflicts of interest. SEAPARC cannot offer public funded services in competition with other community stakeholders.
 - Why build a fourth workout facility, when the other 3 clubs in Sooke already have low membership problems.
 - To me and my family, the Complex is an integral part of our lives.
 - If it means doing all aspects of proposed expansion (phasing).
 - I am a parent, instructor (yoga) and user of the facility. My 2 school-aged children use the facility.
 - There is nothing for seniors.
 - No public transportation west of Grant Rd. to get us there.
 - I support this expansion tremendously.
 - Do not use.
 - Perfect to see it done all at once while construction costs & borrowing is cheaper.
 - Fitness center needed to most/priority.
 - All at once to get it done, do it right.
 - Let's not make the same mistake twice – plan ahead – plan big – our town will continue to grow.
 - I am totally opposed to any expansion.
 - We have 3 gyms in Sooke already. In these strained economic times restraint and common sense should be used.
 - We need a facility that addresses the growth of Sooke and the need for good access to recreation.
 - I do not and will not use the complex due to the 150 km return trip on a poor road.

Suggestions provided for additional use of space:

- Better viewing area to watch my child at swim lessons.
- More showers + change areas for swimming.
- Kitchenette type space in recreation rooms for part rentals, etc. Better plugs for coffee makers & crock pots, etc. As well as a couple of burners to keep foods hot.
- Steam room, treadmills, basketball – indoor court.
- It might be great to have a healthier venue for food. Coffee shop with healthy snacks. (Several comments received regarding healthy snack/food outlet)
- Food bar – healthy, simple, fast. Serve yourself like Green Cuisine (Market Square) or set up like Subway or Eugene's Greek Food in Colwood & Victoria.
- Room for Nels TWD/art lessons/gymnastics/floor hockey – soccer. Extra room for extra classes!!
- A big slide would be great too!
- Lounge – licensed area to watch hockey.
- Expanded food services.
- Gym, cafe/bistro.
- The proposal focus(es) on a rather restricted view of recreation and leisure. Suitable space for active arts (dance for example) would be positive. Also more for seniors. Maybe a large studio-fitness space.
- More family change space for pool.

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- Qualified/staffed weight training areas – people available to guide use of equip. (prevention) and/or proper rehabilitation (prevention) for existing injuries, etc.
 - Improved/larger change rooms in pool area.
 - The ultimate facility should have the capacity & amenities to cater to “special interest groups” as well.
 - Martial arts lessons (several comments received).
 - You need more arena dressing rooms.
 - The pool needs something more, like a waterslide or bigger river or something.
 - We need a medical clinic.
 - An area for childminding for the people using fitness/swimming/weight room. Would create jobs!
 - Senior’s centre (many comments received re: seniors’ centre).
 - Waterslide in meter pool. (many comments received re: waterslide).
 - Need more room in pool dressing rooms.
 - Larger multipurpose rooms.
 - I would come more often if there were aerobic and stretching classes.
 - I would like to see that there are services of a kinesiologist on site for water rehabilitation and exercise rehabilitation.
 - I would like to see a larger pool (adult).
 - I called 2 years ago about Pickle Ball, I’m still waiting for a phone call.
 - Cafe or bar (healthy juice). (Several comments received re: café-style food service)
 - *Good Gym* - weight room, cardio room, etc.
 - Better food services.
 - Desperate need for a seniors drop in activity centre. Every district except Sooke has a facility supported by their recreation facilities & levels of government.
 - Massage therapy services would be an attractive addition for the patrons.
 - Improved facilities in handicapped dressing rooms and showers. Grab rails in all showers.
 - I would like to see the aerobic space used for more overall adult fitness programs, yoga, ball classes, dance classes, pilates, etc. More kids programs as well.
 - Gym time for seniors – students – working people.
 - Coffee – juice bar – full kitchen for games & events.
 - Space for lessons i.e. dance, karate, tai chi, yoga
 - Would like more programs for the over 50 years of age group especially weight s to prevent osteoporosis. Would like pilates & different types of yoga.
 - It would be really great if a “steam room” were install/built like JdF/Westshore has. Some people prefer a steam room as opposed to a sauna.
 - Space for dance classes.
 - Would like to see an attractive and functional concession area.
 - Our youth need a drug free area. They want a place to go where they feel wanted. After all, youth are this town’s future! By youth, I mean EMCS students & Journey. These kids R 2 bored!
 - Better dressing rooms, more dressing rooms.

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- More rooms for children's programs.
 - Meeting/conference rooms (several comments received re: meeting and conference space)
 - Nutrition counselling room.
 - Continue with birthday party room.
 - Small female change room for mixed hockey teams.
 - More private change rooms & showers for women using the pool.
 - Juice bar.
 - Lounge + food services on upper floor overlooking arena.
 - Food services, catering, dependable posted hours for concession. Put in a lounge or get a permanent licence to serve beer & wine. Look at other operations on island and mainland. Borrow now as to do so is very, very cheap. Low interest.
 - Basic sports equip./book/video store
 - Individual/small grp., personal training spots
 - 2 sheets of ice (lounge restaurant)
 - Roller blading use of arena in summer.
 - Really need a large room with mirrors for yoga, dance, etc.
 - More babysitting times – your hours are currently very limited – a full-time space available for childcare would be great (similar to what many women's gyms have in the city).
 - A weight room is needed asap!
 - I would like to see a combatant room for judo, aikido, karate, wrestling, etc. (soft floor/mats).
 - More change facilities for parents with babies, more infant seats, may be bigger shower spaces w/ change tables.
 - Community group meeting space – nutrition education/counselling room.
 - Childcare facilities (for people using the weight room or aerobic space).
 - A swimming pool for handicapped person only.
 - Outdoor useable space – lawn bowling, boules, volleyball.
 - Different classes.
 - Belly dance classes (I took 1 class at SEAPARC and the "instructor" knew nothing about the subject and wasn't qualified to teach it and the staff didn't care).
 - Also complete repainting of outside of the building.
 - How about a running track outside the arena area? (Several comments received re: running track).
 - I would like to see another pool (preferably Olympic size) and an indoor H2O slide added. I would also like to see a diving pool added. The commonwealth pool is a long way to travel for those of us using that facility. It would be great to have this offered close to home!
 - Payable heaters in Arena (several comments received re: heaters in arena).
 - Better "birthday" party or meeting spaces, perhaps even sauna or hot tub space not part of the regular swimming area.
 - I would like to see additional dressing cubicles, older people, physically challenged and mums with little ones use these and there are not enough cubicles. It would also be helpful to have higher lockers at lower level,

most adults can't reach them. Also arrange to have benches higher for seniors as the present ones are far too low.

- Steam room in pool area (several comments received re: steam room).
- Bigger ref room.
- Teen area.
- At least one more handicap change room in pool area.
- I would like to see a space for preschool! (Several comments received re: preschool).
- More yoga.
- We need a more complete community centre.
- I'll become a member right now if you offer more activities for toddlers.
- I think you need to put more arena dressing rooms.
- More young kids programs.
- I think that you should knock down the wall in between the two and make it two big dressing rooms.
- Cardio equipment – spin bike classes.
- Daycare.
- How about a “real” park? (outdoors).
- I would like to see playpens in the change rooms (pool) for babies while mom is getting dressed.
- Childminding for those using the facility. A cost of \$3 - \$5/her would be feasible. A child care for small children – get parents out – my kids are school age now – but would have really loved it. (Many comments received re: childcare).
- Squash courts (several comments received re: squash courts).
- Other forms of fitness classes, rental to community child care, camps, teen activities.
- Women's changing room.
- We really need a proper area for the Sooke srs. Other communities have them so should we – more & more srs are moving to Sooke.
- I would like to see a government funded senior drop-in centre.
- Facility for seniors centre w kitchen.
- Stretching area.
- Indoor tennis court.
- Do not forget additional washrooms!!
- Waterslide, new hockey arena with soft chairs and chairs on both sides.
- Need space for all floor activities, aerobic, akido, etc.
- A large room for martial art classes, dance classes, aerobics – NEW MATTS
- Fitness (gym) – don't care for aerobics or other.
- An Art Centre at SEAPARC? As an artist and an active member of the arts community I would like to offer this proposal. Sooke badly needs an art center for the visual and performing arts. I think that expansion of the SEAPARC complex could include a plan such as this. Many non profit groups such as the Sooke Philharmonic and the Sooke Community Arts Council, are working towards finding or building a center for the arts. As well, other non profit community groups need places to meet. A multipurpose center could be created to

accommodate this. If we could all work cohesively and combine the building funds that some of us may already have, I feel we could partner with SEAPARC to realize this vision. As well, we might be eligible for grant monies to aid in such a project and there is always fundraising. SEAPARC is well located with lots of parking and room to expand. The key of course is working together towards a common goal.

- Viewing area accessible to handicap!
- Weight scales in pool area.
- Climbing wall, heavy bag in weight room.
- Mixed aerobic/weight room.
- Gymnasium – 1 court volleyball, etc.
- Adults only change room.
- Dressing rooms 1st.
- Martial arts studio with mats.
- Free weights (not machines).
- Cardio machines, pilates machines.
- We really need a drop-in rec. center style weight room in Sooke. Something to do while our kids are at programs. Babysitting room?
- All – Let's talk about racket ball, squash, curling.
- Racket ball, squash, curling or 2nd rink space. Better concession open all the time.
- Youth drop in centre, ages 13 – 18. R.A.D.D. (Race Against Drugs) is a program local + RCMP police in Ontario organized to encourage healthy alternatives. Check out T.Y.P.S (Town youth participation strategies).
- Exercise gym.
- Gymnasium for basketball/volleyball, etc.
- Aerobic space.
- You need a bigger pool!
- A funner pool!
- Make sure there is plenty of stretching space and stretching mats in the weight room.
- Space for yoga teachers. Many teachers in Sooke & no central space for them to rent.
- Rooms available for meetings for special interest groups to rent.
- I've not heard that it is not large enough now.
- Seeing the pool outfitted for swim meets would be terrific – flags, starting blocks, etc. More childminding services. For example the pre-natal yoga didn't have child minding, so someone with children couldn't take the class. Childminding while in the pool etc.
- Concession improvements.
- A childminding area for moms who would like to exercise in the new aerobics/weight room areas.
- Both 1 & 2 require improvements (arena dressing rooms and program staff space). 3 ok (aerobic space), 4 too specialized (weight room).
- Tennis courts.
- Proposed aerobic space is too small – we need AT LEAST same if not more as the present double room.
- Would love to see water aerobics be earlier in the evenings 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.

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- Senior drop in centre (x2)
 - Conference rooms or meeting rooms.
 - Teen/senior drop in room.
 - We need a senior's drop in center (the same as other municipalities). The bldg we are in now is up for sale so we could be out of a place altogether.
 - Please, please, please add a steam room between diving board and hot tub in corner.
 - Seniors should be a priority.
 - I attended a forum on seniors in Sooke. It was all day, lots of speakers. Now I find out the seniors may lose their space. Make a space for seniors.
 - Seniors/youth center.
 - Playground, maybe indoor playground.
 - Drop-in centre for kids – different age groups. Coffee shop for socializing promoted for all age groups & some delicious, healthy snacks.
 - Coffee shop.
 - I have had to commute to Juan de Fuca Rec for Healthy Heart classes. Properly equipped Weight Room would allow for local sessions.
 - 1 space for programs/room rentals. 1 space for pre-school, 1 space for aerobics.
 - Specific youth room.
 - Acquisition of additional land for recreational facilities (play ground, walking/running loop, playing fields, etc.)
 - Acquisition of additional land for community–centered services (preschool, library, seniors centre)
 - Acquisition of additional land for connectivity trails (Thrup Road)
 - Increasing transportation options to the complex (community bus stop would cater to youth and seniors)

Comments re: potential tax increase, cost and funding

- This expense is not appropriate at this time for a project that would benefit such a small % of the population. Please do not do this to the taxpayers who are already overtaxed.
- We are retired, living on a fixed pension and cannot afford more taxes. Also, we live a long way from the SEAPARC Complex.
- Property taxes are too high now
- I can not afford to maintain Sooke in the lifestyle it wants to have (from East Sooke).
- Fed up with taxes and levys
- You have got to be kidding. We are already paying every year on the original bonds which are paid off by now. Use that money if you need some funds. It is highway robbery. We have not spoken with anyone who approved the expansion.
- Already subsidize it enough through taxes if you want more expansion because of demand make it “USER PAY”
- Please let's find a way to reduce taxes not increase.
- Sell it off & kindly reduce our high taxes. Some of us have families to raise.

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- I prefer to see my tax \$\$ spent on important social issues. I think there are other priorities in the community. I think in times of economic down turn, with so many social issues (health, homelessness), this project should be at the bottom of the prio. list.
 - I am opposed to any TAX INCREASE. Not a SEAPARC user.
 - No to tax increased - Because we pay enough tax in the JdFEA for limited amenities compared to Sooke residents amenities.
 - While I pay (as a JdF taxpayer) for this facility, I've never used it. Tax increase estimate for the original proved ridiculously low; I'll resist repeating the exercise.
 - Final projected cost needs to be voted for again.
 - Why wasn't the facility built with these facilities originally when the cost would have been lower?
 - Adamantly no – we're still paying for the original facility.
 - All funding should be in place before proceeding.
 - We don't need further tax increases!!
 - Do not use this facility now – but help pay for it.
 - Better use of funds.
 - How many years will it take to pay off the 1/3 cost?
 - Do what you need, just don't tax P.R. for it.
 - Sooke gets enough of our taxes. We get none. Enough already!! (from Port Renfrew).
 - Lower taxes are better in this rough economy.
 - Again less cost, less tax increase at this time.
 - Have you noticed a recession? Municipal taxes increasing annually. SEAPARC already expensive!
 - These services should not be funded from the tax base. If offered, they should be totally funding through fee for service.
 - Every year is an increase in the operational budget paid for in part by property taxes! Your proposal does not include the increase for the exp. operational budget. You misinform the public. A grant is not free money. Those are taxes paid by the public and might be better spent on a medical centre in Sooke!
 - These economic times we do not need more taxes! Why isn't there user pay only? I helped pay for the rink, the pool and I pay to use them. Let private concerns build and charge for their use. Stop trying to mimic Vict., Nanaimo! Let's stay small. This project will be like the swimming pool, which after 10 years was to have building costs removed from our taxes. This didn't happen. Why should we believe your estimates? I was lied to before!
 - The changes are needed but the tax increase would be a problem for several residents.
 - Raise the money through user fees. Let those who use it, pay for it.
 - Taxes too high added on again to everything.
 - We can't afford more taxes of any kind.
 - Why would we want more tax money when staff can't keep the showers in pool changing room working at the same time? Why spend more tax money on fitness room when there are aerobics in Sooke now?
 - We are already greatly overtaxed, we need infrastructure for Sooke, not expanded exercise areas for a few more vocal users.

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- We are so maxed out in paying property taxes, there are more important things to be done first. Do not increase my taxes again. – enough is enough!
 - No tax but I will donate some money (from a youth).
 - Let's keep from adding more taxes at this time.
 - Not enough info provided in regards to cost to tax payers. Not enough collective buy in from community.
 - No more funds/taxes. Please get government assistance to establish a seniors drop in centre.
 - Why does SEAPARC want taxpayers to pay for facilities that are already provided by two existing businesses in Sooke. With these facilities, I pay for them only if I use them. With SEAPARC, I pay for it whether I use it or not. Sounds like empire building to me.
 - Very important to stay within budget. Why will there be higher prices of material. Are coming down and traders are cheaper? (in response to phase in).
 - Go for it. A \$30.00 tax increase could handle more.
 - Tax increase is fine. \$40+ is acceptable for nice facilities and community health.
 - I think that it is a very high price to pay for expanding the dressing rooms for the arena.
 - Create a business plan that will pay for itself and create a profit.
 - No more tax increases. No more tax hikes.
 - A donation box. When patrons anti up enough \$ build. Please give your collective heads a shake!
 - User fee to pay for expansion!!!
 - We are still paying for the pool price in our tax. This is higher than I want to pay.
 - I am an OAP – my OA Pension plus the supplement is \$777.47 per month or \$9329.64 per year, my rural property tax bill this year \$3809.96 leaving me with \$5519.68 or \$459.97 per month – could you live on that? A look at my tax notice show that of my total tax the Capital Reg. Hosp. gets only \$162.14 as compared to SEAPARC Arena & Pool at \$380.94 plus a recreation tax of \$17.84 – and now you want more! Seems like you already have both front feet and your snout implanted in the public trough!
My tax money should not be used to build and operate a facility that will be a direct competition to several already established local fitness centres (paying taxes too).
Let those who think they need the use of a fitness centre reach into their own pocket and pay a local business – get your sticky fingers out of my pocket and pay for your own fun – don't off-load it onto the seniors and the working poor. It doesn't matter which level of government the money come from, it's still from taxes!
I wonder how you managed to brain wash nine community volunteers into going along with this ill conceived pipe dream.
Your "Let them Eat Cake" attitude toward the tax payers of this area is shameful!
 - According to an agreement negotiated in February 2006 between the Province, the District of Sooke, CRD Director and other to find a fairer taxation arrangement for the Juan de Fuca Electoral area, they Electoral area's share would be reduced to 30% from 47% by the year 2011. At that time, there were no considerations or agreements made for further expansion or how these expansions would be paid for.
Therefore, any expansions should be done in phases out of the existing budget so that there would be no additional cost to the Electoral area.

Personally, I feel that there is no benefit to Port Renfrew residents for the proposed expansion and that the weight rooms and aerobics areas are already available in the commercial segment of Sooke.

It was also reported by the former CRD Director that SEAPARC would soon have the “capacity of being able to generate a report detailing which community uses the facility”. I would be interested to know what percentage of usage pertains to Port Renfrew and other areas.

- Port Renfrew should not support SEAPARC in any way. People that use it pay for it.
- We shouldn't (Port Renfrew) even pay for the pool.
- Our community rec center is more in need of my taxes than a center that offers little or nothing to residents of Port Renfrew.
- If it can be built at no extra cost to taxpayers then, fine.
- Port Renfrew residents should not have to pay a penny for a facility with little to no use to any of us.
- I currently pay more taxes for SEAPARC than services I actually use and need in my own community. Any additional taxes I would support would not be for a facility outside of P.R.